

THE  
ANSWER  
OF

RICHARD GUY,  
Surgeon, in *Mark-lane*,

To certain invidious Falshoods and Reflections  
upon his Method of curing

CANCERS WITHOUT CUTTING,

Lately published in an INTRODUCTION to the  
ESSAYS, &c. of

THOMAS GATAKER,  
Surgeon Extraordinary to His Majesty, &c. &c.

Proper for the Perusal of all those, who are,  
in any Degree, afflicted with Cancers.

LIBRARY  
438809  
Washington, D.C. 47  
The SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:

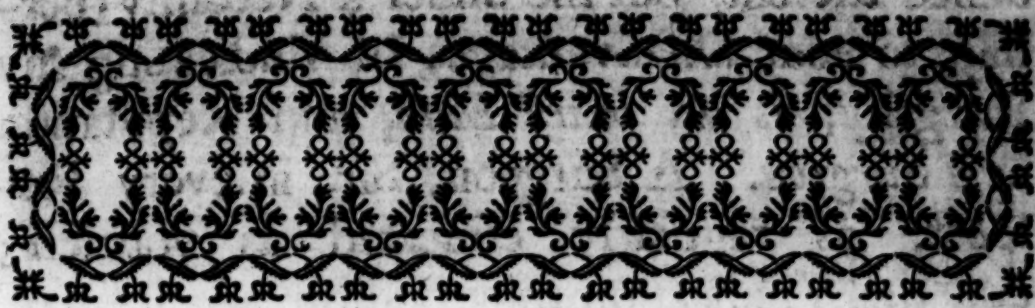
Printed for R. Willock, in Cornhill; W. Bristow, in St Paul's  
Church-Yard; and all other Bookfellers in London and West-  
minster. M,DCC,LXIV.

## E R R A T A.

- PAGE 9, *read*, as to Clamour, &c.  
12, *read*, as for the Difficulty, &c.  
13, *Line* 4, *read*, I have however, &c.  
16, *In the Note*, *read*, Scirrhus Tumours, &c.  
20, *read*, but in respect to Pain, &c.  
24, *For*, and spreading, *read*, spreading, &c.  
29, *Line the last but one*, *dele* likewise.  
31, *For*, Amputation had, *read*, has.  
33, *read*, Patients have suffered.  
37, *read*, under my Inspection.  
50, *read*, that neither the Dissolution, or Suppuration should succeed, &c.  
50, *For*, Mrs. Bruce, *read*, Miss Bruce, in several Places.


*What other Mistakes of this Sort have escaped my Observation, if they do not affect the Subject so far as to alter the Sense, it is hoped the candid Reader will correct, and forgive.*





The Answer of RICHARD  
GUY, Surgeon, in *Mark-  
Lane*, to certain invidious  
Falshoods and Reflections  
upon his Method of curing  
CANCERS WITHOUT CUT-  
TING.

S I R,

T has been justly observed, that  
Men of a malevolent and envi-  
ous Disposition, often put a  
Weapon into the Hands of those  
they intend to injure, which  
may hurt themselves. The Truth of this  
Observation has been not a little confirmed by  
the Book which you have lately published,  
entitled, *Essays on Medical Subjects*, &c. par-  
ticularly by the *Introduction*. For the ranco-  
rous Insinuations and Misrepresentations con-  
tained

tained therein, put me under a Necessity (perhaps to your Disadvantage) of vindicating my Integrity, as an *honest Man*, and Reputation as a *Surgeon*. A Surgeon, Sir, in every Respect, as regularly educated as yourself; and this Vindication may possibly admit, nay, require such Explanations as will afford an Opportunity of paying myself Compliments, which could never with Decency have been permitted, but in this very allowable Case of Self-Defence. My Readers, I hope, will therefore judge tenderly, if I should seem to exceed a little in this Respect; and remember that it was Injury, Injustice, and Detraction, that urged me to set Pen to Paper, against so distinguished an Adversary as, ‘THOMAS GATAKER, ‘*Surgeon Extraordinary to his Majesty, and her ‘Royal Highness the Princess Dowager of Wales, ‘and Surgeon to her Majesty’s Household, and St. ‘George’s Hospital.*’ Indeed, Mr. GATAKER, I was once well inclined to form a better Opinion of your Principles. I might have been warped to a contrary one, had I given Credit to the Assurances of some of my Friends and Brethren of the Faculty; but it is my Disposition to think well of every Man ’till I find a just Occasion to alter my Opinion. These Hints, however, had the Effect to render me more wary and cautious in the Interviews, which for the future, might happen between us, even so far as to make me think  
it



it not unnecessary to *minute down* the Particulars of the Discourse, that passed between us, in an appointed Meeting, at the *Smyrna* Coffee-house, *January* the 6th last past, about the Hours of One and Two. The which shall be mentioned in their proper Order. Among other Things, you then informed me of your intended Publication, “ and that you believed, “ you had discovered my Secret\*, but that “ you should treat me with Candour, and like “ a Gentleman.” But now, since you have altered your Mind, and have neither treated me with Candour, nor like a Gentleman, I shall appeal for Justice to the Public, whether, after all your Objections, I have deserved these *wicked Insinuations*, those artful Stabs which you have aimed at my Integrity; and whether the Replies, which I am about to make, are not sufficient to take off all the *Malignity* of your Falshoods.

You must pardon me, good Sir, as you have set me no *Example* of *Delicacy*, if I should sometimes forget that Respect due to your illustrious Personage; considering that I think myself injured, and knowing, at the same Time, I have nothing to *fear*, to *hope*, or *request* at your Hands; and as to Mr. *Plunkett*, upon whom you have endeavoured to use all the Edge of your favourite *Incision-Knife*, I should advise him only to answer you in the

\* The Medicine, which I use in the Cure of Cancers.

the Words of the famous *Empirick* who was sent for to administer the Bark to the *French King*, but opposed in the Administration by his Physicians, who alledged, that he could not so much as explain what a Fever was. To which, the arch Wag replied, that it was a Disorder which he could cure, but those Gentlemen could not; and indeed he proved to be right in his Assertion. With Respect to myself, Sir, I think I am obliged to be a little more particular, and therefore shall begin with some of your Strictures, wherein you would endeavour to wound me through *Plunkett's Sides*, which Attempt will do you no great Honor, especially at your first Onset; as will appear by my Vindication, wherein I shall rectify, as they occur, other Falshoods, which, without some such Reproof, may have a Tendency to mislead the Public.

After introducing several vague and indeterminate Notions concerning the *State*, and *Existence* of *Cancers*, you boldly assert, that the Receipt of *Plunkett's Medicine*, with the Directions for its Use, was left by his Name-fake to *St. Stephen's Hospital* in *Dublin*; and also, *that it appears to be the same Composition, which Mr. Plunkett practised with here, &c.* If so, Sir, this should seem to imply, in the first Place, that the Medicine is a *valuable* one; otherwise it could not have deserved the Honor of being introduced into Practice there.

But



But as Mr. *Plunkett* has read your Account, he desires me to tell the World, that your Assertion is entirely *false*. For with respect to the History of the Medicine, it was originally discovered by his Grandfather above an hundred Years ago, and left to his only Son the Father of the present Mr. *Plunkett*, and from him communicated only to this latter Mr. *Plunkett*. That St. *Stephen's* Hospital, nor any other, ever had such a Legacy nor Communication, from either of the above *Plunketts*, neither do they know any more of the Matter than the Great Mogul ; as it was never communicated to any Person whatever, until I purchased it of this last Mr. *Plunkett*, near seven Years ago, and this Mr. *Plunkett* is ready to make Oath of, and calls upon you, Sir, if a Man of Honor, to prove your Assertion, if you can : For it has been the only Means of their Support, from the Beginning to this very day ; and consequently it must be very improbable, in such Circumstances, that they should be inclined to give it away. This being the Case, Sir, I should be glad to know in the next Place, the Ground for the second Part of your Assertion, wherein you affirm, the Medicine, which, according to your Account, is used in *Dublin*, appears to be the same Composition with Mr. *Plunkett's*. Pray, Sir, how came you to know its Composition ? Did you ever see it ? How can you pretend to  
judge

judge of the Appearance of a Medicine which you never saw? Did he, Mr. *Plunkett*, or Mr. *Guy*, ever afford you an Opportunity of examining it, or of being a Spectator of their Manner of Application? \* What may not therefore be expected from a Man so incautious in his Assertions, and so regardless of Veracity?

You have, with as little Reason, and like Confidence, been pleased, Sir, to style the *Medicine* a *Caustic*; and have given the most exalted Ideas of the Terrors of its Operation, *far beyond* any *Pain* that is capable of being produced by the Knife: You happen, unfortunately, here again to display an Ignorance very unbecoming the Character of a KING's *Surgeon*; you ought to know — nay, you have known, the Effects that *Caustics* produce on Cancers. But you would seem rather to evade the Question, whether it be a *Caustic* or not, by your artful Manner of Writing; I  
had

\* At the Time that there appeared an anonymous Letter, in the public Papers, probably from Mr. *Gataker*, setting forth that the Receipt of a Medicine, which the Writer called *Plunkett's Medicine*, was sent from St. *Stephen's Hospital, Dublin, to London*, I requested a Friend of mine, Mr. *Donnelan*, who had Relations then in *Dublin*, to write over to them, to enquire of the Physicians at St. *Stephen's Hospital*, if they had any such Medicine then in Use; the Answer was, that they had no such Medicine in their Practice, knew of no such Medicine, and consequently it could not be transmitted by them to *London*.



had told you before in private *Conversation*, that the Operation, and Effects of this Medicine were *specifically* different from all *Caustics* whatever, and you ought to have known, that applying *Caustics*, never fails spreading and enraging a Cancer more, in one Week, than the Disease, from its own Nature, and in its most malignant State, is capable of doing in a Month, and that it produces a speedy Destruction of the Patient; † on the Contrary, my Medicine, (or, if you please, *Plunkett's Medicine*) never enrages, nor spreads the Cancer, but extirpates the whole, with its Roots, in such Manner, as no *Caustics* in the World are capable of doing. I am well persuaded, that you would never have given it the Name of *Caustic*; were it not from a Design of creating a most horrible Apprehension of it, and thereby depriving, as far as lies in your Power, Persons who would otherwise apply, from having the Benefit of it. But why, good Sir, are you so *malignant*, if you really think it is a *Caustic*, to clamour, or object to a *Caustic* in my Hands, more than in your own, since you have given me sufficient Reason to think that you secretly approve of *Caustics*, otherwise what could be your Reasons for using *Caustic Applications* in the Case of Mrs. ——— in *Bond-street*? where I was afterwards called to a Con-

B

sulta-

† See the Cases, in *Van Swieten's Commentaries on Boerhaave*, of the Effect of *Caustics* applied to Cancers.

sultation with you ; whether you did this by Way of Experiment to dive into my Practice, or for any other Reason, you know best ; but by the Condition in which I found the Patient, I thought it by no Means expedient for me to intermeddle, though I was immediately after several Times strongly solicited to it by the Gentleman, her Husband, but you *had undertaken it* ; and what the Event was the *Under-taker* knows the best.

The next Article deserving Consideration is, your Effrontery, and self-sufficient *Rhetoric* on the *Roots of Cancers*. An insolent Kind of Ridicule, founded on Ignorance, here holds the Place of Argument, to shew that there is no such Thing in Existence. But, unluckily for you, Sir, Persons of the greatest Skill and Learning in the Science of Medicine are all against you ; and what is the greatest Instance of shallow Faculties, you unwarily convict yourself, as I shall shew by your own Words. But first let me ask, how you came to be so short in your Reading, Mr. *Gataker*, as to oppose your single Opinion, being no more than a simple Surgeon, to some of the greatest Men that ever did honour to the Art of Physic ; hear the Words of the illustrious *Boerhaave*, and blush ——— ‘ *For unless (says he) the Cancer be extirpated entirely, both with its*  
‘ *ROOTS, and SEEDS, it will be exasperated,*  
‘ *and return to the more internal Parts, so as*

‘ to



‘ to produce other Cancers, &c.” After him,  
 the celebrated Baron *Van Sweeten* observes,  
 ‘ That is called the *ROOT* of a Cancer, by which  
 ‘ it adheres to the circumjacent Parts, and, as  
 ‘ it were, disperses itself through them; for it  
 ‘ was observed before, That an ulcerated Cancer  
 ‘ sent out such malignant *ROOTS*, on all Sides,  
 ‘ into the adjacent Parts, by which it firmly  
 ‘ adhered. The Name of *Roots* (continues he)  
 ‘ is not improperly given to these spreading  
 ‘ Parts of a Cancer, because after it has been  
 ‘ extirpated, it sprouts up again from those  
 ‘ *Roots*, if any of them are left behind.” This  
 is, some how or other, a powerful Contradiction; and, in this Case, which will the Faculty be most inclined to credit, the little Mr. *Gataker* or the great *Van Sweeten*? How came Mr. *Gataker* to be so unfortunate as to meet with such a severe Correction? Why,  
 ‘ because he would be so sufficient as to know that  
 ‘ it is only in IMAGINATION that there are such  
 ‘ *Roots* existing.” You cannot, Sir, pretend that *Boerhaave* or *Van Sweeten* are obsolete Writers. The former lived since my Time, and the latter is, at this Day, principal Physician to the Empress. However, it seems this new and doubtless more discerning Doctrine of yours, must give them both, and all other Writers, the *Coup de Grace*, as well as me. It is Pity, that you never read those celebrated Authors; but I am willing to place

your Want of Reading to your Hurry of Business; for I cannot think, that if you had read you would have been hardy enough to have attacked me in a Point so clear, or to have charged me with *imagining the Existence* of the Roots of Cancers, which by the Judgment and Experience of your Betters have really existed — and all this only with a View to persuade the World, that my Medicine is incapable of extirpating a Cancer with Roots, *because, as you say, Cancers have no Roots, but in Imagination.* These are your own Words, Mr. Gataker: ‘ *But if any one was to pretend that these Medicines would not only destroy the Tumour, or Sore, which they are applied to, but would even eat, or draw out the Roots of those Tumors or Sores, it would at once appear impracticable to a Person truly informed of the Nature of these Disorders. And for the best Reason which could possibly be given — because he would know, that there are not any such Roots existing but in Imagination.*’ For the Difficulty of destroying the Tumor, and eating out the Roots, with which you seem to be puzzled, I shall leave you to study a little longer, to explain it if you can. For I have never given any such Descriptions myself of the Operation of my Medicine, and I should be glad to know, on my Part, what *Turn or interested Views* it could serve, as you pretend to insinuate, if I were to enter into a  
 Debate



Debate whether Cancers have Roots or not; If I cure them it is sufficient, and that I do cure them, can be proved by Hundreds of Instances. I have, and do still assert, that Cancers have Roots, and that they are to be seen in every Case, where they are extirpated by my Method. Every Patient and every By-stander can witness this Truth, and I hope they are not all to be suspected of Falshood.

But when a Cancer is cut out of the Breast, or any other Part, the sight of them is lost in the same Manner as are the numerous small Vessels in a Piece of *Butcher's Meat*, being divided at the Time of Dissection, and obscured by the Blood, which issues from the Wounds of the principal Veins and Arteries: But this *Concealment* does not take away their Existence, though to the *incurious* Observer they may be *imperceptible*. But I need proceed no farther, since I have upon this Point, what I imagine the Reader will call your *Recantation* or *Confession*. For thus says Mr. Gataker, ‘ *It may be said indeed, that such*  
‘ *Roots are sometimes visible after a Tumor has*  
‘ *been extirpated by these caustic Applications.*  
‘ *It is certainly true, that the Appearances*  
‘ *which are called Roots, are sometimes visible,*  
‘ *after a Scirrhus or cancerous Tumour has been*  
‘ *extirpated by this Method; and so there are*  
‘ *after other glandulous Tumors have been extir-*  
‘ *pated*

*'pated by caustic Applications.'* I leave you to reconcile, if you can, these, which appear to me to be evident Contradictions. For in one Place you absolutely deny *any such Roots to be existing*, and then confess that what are called *Roots are sometimes visible*. Why, if they resemble Roots, and, as *Van Sweeten* observes, do the Office of Roots, why should they not be called so still? Are Mankind to change their *rational and established* Modes of Speech to gratify the ignorant Conceit of Mr. *Gataker*?

Sensible, I suppose, of your Inconsistencies, you would afterwards cut my Throat with a Feather.

*'Undoubtedly (say you) it must be disagreeable to a Man, supposed to understand the Principles of his Profession, and to be acquainted with the improved State of Surgery, to be obliged publicly to adopt and support such an obsolete Notion, and yet in Mr. Guy's Situation, it might seem necessary.'*

Unfortunately courteous! You have seen, Sir, that it is no *obsolete* Notion, being maintained by the greatest Physicians of the present Age, and founded upon Reasons, which you cannot remove. But what would you imply by that invidious Imputation *'in Mr. Guy's Situation?'* Certainly my Reputation as a Surgeon, has ever stood as clear as Mr. *Gataker's*; my Circumstances, if you mean them, are  
more



more probable to put me above dishonest or mean Actions, than yours. It is true, I believe, *your Situation* is indeed better, than it was a few Years ago, since I remember, from the great *Goodness* of His MAJESTY, in raising you somewhat above many others of your Fraternity, but *Honors* and *Wisdom* do not always go Hand in Hand together. What a Man of Consequence you would seem to be, in giving us an Account of the ‘*obliging Manner, in which the COMPANY of Surgeons*’ appointed you to read their Lectures? And yet, I suppose, that you would scarce have plumed yourself upon it so much, if you had been aware, that this had been also my *Situation*: For the Company appointed me likewise Master of *Anatomy*, in the self-same *obliging Manner*, that they appointed you. And about eight Years ago I gave Lectures in the Theatre as well as yourself. This then, I think, may suffice for *Situations*.

I therefore leave this Subject to come to the Discussion of a very interesting Point. Here are very heavy Charges laid against me, which are to be cleared up, and wide Differences again in our Opinions. You pretend that,

‘*Mr. Guy frequently endeavours, in the strongest Terms, to represent, and heighten the Grievances of the Operation by Incision. The Pain of this, and every other Operation is indeed to be lamented; but as Mr. Guy could*

*not*

' not be insensible that the Pain excitea by Plun-  
 ' kett's Medicine is, in some Parts of its Ope-  
 ' ration, not only as severe as almost any Pain  
 ' that be can be suffered, but much aggravated  
 ' in Comparison with the other Method, by the  
 ' tedious Duration of it; as he must be equally  
 ' sensible, that there are many cancerous Cases,  
 ' which from their Size, their Situation, and  
 ' other Circumstances, cannot admit of having  
 ' this Medicine applied to them; and as in  
 ' other bad Cases, he has declined the Applica-  
 ' tion, where they have afterwards been relieved,  
 ' or cured by the common Operation, &c.

Now, Sir, had you quoted my Words\*,  
 you would have left the Public to have judged  
 for themselves, whether I have heightened  
 the Grievances of Cutting, in any Terms, that  
 might deserve Censure. Indeed I do not con-  
 conceive it is possible to do it; but before I go  
 further into this Argument, relating to the easi-  
 est Method of curing Cancers, whether by your  
 cutting Method, or mine without cutting,  
 let us premise, that formerly I used to cut  
 Cancers out, as well as yourself, until I became  
 acquainted with an easier and better Method;  
 and will venture to affirm, that I have per-  
 formed, and still can perform the Operation,  
 with the Knife, with as much Dexterity as  
 yourself, if I should at any Time be desired to  
 do

\* Vid. my Essay of Scirrhus Tumors and Cancers;  
 and Practical Observations on Cancers, &c. &c.



do it by a Patient in Preference to my other Way; though I confess I should rather wish to be excused, for I have not imbrued my hands in Blood for near these seven Years past. However, this may serve to inform you, that I have my Option to proceed that Way, if I please, and necessity should so require. However, in Opposition to it, I do assert now, what I never did before, that cutting, and what follows by taking up the Blood-Vessels with the Needle, and then tying them with the Ligatures, as is the common Practice, is, of all Pain that I have been able to form a Judgment of, the most grievous, severe, and terrifying, and believe that few or no Women, would submit to have a Breast cut off, were they not perswaded of there being no Alternative but that, or Death. The latter Idea will frequently, together with Hope, enable them to sustain, and admit of such an Operation. But suppose I go farther, and comparatively consider the Consequences sometimes attending this, as well as other Operations by the Knife. You ought not to be ignorant, Sir, that there are certain Times, when the Blood, Juices, or the Habit of Body, which you please, is in a too relaxed or dissolved State, at which Time, an Operation of this Sort before mentioned, frequently from its Irritation, produces high Fevers, Convulsions, the Locked Jaw, and

C

Death

Death in a few Days, and this certain Time is impossible to be known by any Skill whatever ; whatever, any one may pretend to the contrary, I have seen it happen many Times, and so must every one, who has known any considerable Share of Practice. To obviate a Part of this Danger, the Hospitals have endeavoured to substitute the *Agarick*, and other *Stipticks* to stop bleeding, without taking the Ligature to their Assistance ; and happy would it have been for many, had they met with such Success, as to have established it in *general* Practice, seeing it is much to be feared, that on tying the Bood-Vessels, a Branch of a Nerve will be frequently included within the Ligature, and when it so happens, that alone is capable of producing all the above Symptoms, even tho' the Patient should be otherwise in a good State of Health, and it is sometimes impossible to discern, or avoid such Accidents from the great Flux of Blood issuing at the Instant, that an Operation is performing. God forbid such Misfortunes should be general, I do not mean to say it, nor should have gone so far had I not been forced through your Indiscretion and Malevolence, to compare the Nature and Consequence of one Operation with those of the other. In general, after any capital Operation, by the Knife, *Opiates* are given in order to stifle Pain, and take off that Irritation, which is occasioned by it : These are continued  
more



more or less, accordingly as Symptoms abate, or require the Use of them, and without this Method more ill Success would happen, than does. Now in Respect to the *Effects* of my *Medicine*, wherever it hath been applied, though in some Cases it may have given considerable Pain; yet the Pain was never so great as to throw the Patient into an high Fever, or any Fever to continue many Hours; and not one Patient in twenty, has any Fever at all, nor even so much Pain as to confine them a single Day to a Bed-Chamber; nor have I, in any one Case, in all my Practice, had Occasion to give an *Opiate*; but for the Generality my Patients are so well as to go Abroad during the whole Process of the Cure, and this I can prove from many of those Cases which I before have published, as well as others more numerous, yet unpublished.

As a Specimen, I will give you those of the three Persons following, who are now under Cure, by my Method, having all of them *Scirrhuses* in their Breasts.

The *first* at Mr. ———, in *Cornhill*, is a Lady of the most tender and delicate Constitution, labouring under another grievous Disorder, besides that of her Breast, for which I desired that a Physician might be consulted, and Dr. *Fothergill* was appointed, and has attended her. This Lady has gone through the Operation by my Method, has

never had the least Fever, to keep her out of the Dining-room any one Day, nor has suffered any considerable Pain, or injury to her Health from the Medicine. The *Scirrhus* is extirpated, and she is near well of that *Complaint*, for which I attended her.

The *second* is a Lady at Mr. —, in *Tavistock-Street*, who came later under my Care than the aforementioned Lady; the *Scirrhus* is now coming out of the Breast; she has complained of more Pain than the former, but has had no Fever, is well in Health, has not been confined to her Chamber a single Day, was at the Play while she was under my Hands, and told me, that the Pain was not so great as to disappoint her of the Pleasure she expected. She is in a promising Way to do well.

The *third*, a Lady, at Mr. —, near *Temple-Bar*, with the same Disorder as the above, began the Operation in the like Manner, the same Day; has fared better than them both; has had no Fever, and very little Pain, so little as not to confine her; for she has gone out to her Friends almost every Day from the Beginning to this Time; the *Scirrhus* is coming out, and she appears likely to do well, being in good Health. The whole of the Pain is over with them all.

I have entered into no Particulars in Respect to the Pain, farther than is necessary to the Point proposed; namely, for distinguishing between the Situations of those under my Method

tho



thod, and those that are cut, the Truth of which may be known to any one, who will please to call on me for further Information; or they may see the Ladies themselves.

I shall now endeavour, Sir, to shew the great Difference between your singular Opinion, and that of others of the Faculty; both in Respect to Pain, Propriety, and Success, with Regard to the different Methods aforementioned, for the Cure of *Cancers*. These are not ordinary Evidences, which I am about to produce, but Gentlemen of *Reputation* in the *Profession*, whose *Judgments* are to be depended upon, and I doubt not, but will do Honor to my Cause; they were under Necessity to give a Preference either to *my Medicine* or *Cutting*. Let the Facts give Evidence for themselves.

Dr. Jones, an eminent Physician at *Haverford-West*, brought his Lady to *London*, in order to have a Consultation on her Case; she being afflicted with a large *cancerous* Tumor in her Breast. The Opinions of those he consulted were, that she must submit to part with the greatest Portion of her Breast, by *Incision*, as the only Means to avoid a greater Misfortune. The Shock the *Doctor* received at the Sentence, being a competent Judge of Consequences, occasioned his hesitating a few Days; after which he applied to me to discourse upon the Matter. No Man was more distressed, nor weighed

weighed with more Attention the Argument on both Sides, to obtain his Wife's Cure by the Method which should be easiest, and surest. He determined upon the Use of my Method against that of cutting, and brought his Lady the next Day to my House for an Inspection of her Case. She was immediately put under my Care, and the *Scirrhus* was extirpated by my Method. She had no Fever, nor any considerable Pain, so much as to disorder her; she received a perfect Cure, and has continued well now above five Years. Some considerable Time afterwards, the Doctor transmitted me a Paper, which contained his Opinions concerning this excellent Method of curing *Cancers* which he chose to experience in Preference to others; desiring me at the same Time to publish it. But as I have always found that Facts themselves, were sufficient Recommendations, I thought that I had then no Occasion to make any further Use of it, than just as a Narrative of the Cure. The said Paper may possibly now be of more Service for the future, as the Doctor upon those Principles, has since recommended Cases to me, which have done Honor to his Recommendation, by the Success wherewith they have been attended.

Doctor *Fernibough*, an eminent *Physician*, and an old *Practitioner*, at *Chester*, (now lately deceased) had been at first a great  
 Enemy



Enemy, and Opposer of my Method of curing : for he had endeavoured (though in vain) to dissuade several of his Patients afflicted with *Cancers* from coming to *London* to be under my Care ; but afterwards finding them return Home cured, he laid aside his former Prejudices. And as it happened some Time after, that his only Daughter (*Mrs. Oliver*) became afflicted with an *Incipient Cancer* in her Breast : The *Doctor* immediately on her discovering it to him, set out with her for *London*, and without Delay, put her entirely under my Direction. The Lump being recent, it submitted to Resolution, and she returned Home cured in a short Time, to the entire Satisfaction of her Father, as well as herself : For upon this Event, the Doctor became my very good Friend, and recommended to me, afterwards, every Case that came in his Way. This Case may possibly be remembered by Dr. *James*.

Doctor ———, an eminent *Physician* in *London*, put his Wife under my Direction, for a Tumor in the Breast, which had much the Appearance of being *cancerous*, but happily subsided by resolvent Means. The Lady received a perfect Cure in a short Time ; her Case being always kept extremely private, is the Reason for omitting the mentioning of her Name. The *Doctor* has Generosity enough, however, to satisfy any one, that should privately desire it.

A Lady now under my Care, a Relation to, and recommended by Mr. *Lee*, an ingenious, and eminent Surgeon, at *Mile-End, London*, had then a *retracted Cancer* in her Breast, which has since been *extirpated* by my Method, and is now near well. She has had no Fever at all, nor so much Pain as to prevent her from coming daily to my House to be dressed. Mr. *Lee* candidly confessed his Approbation of my Method, knowing a Lady now living in his *Neighbourhood*, whom I formerly cured of this Disorder, which induced him, as I conceive, to give the Preference to my Method, not suffering his Relation to be lost, in Compliment to a few others, alike worthy in their Principles with Mr. *Gataker*.

Mr. *Page*, a judicious and experienced Surgeon and (I believe) *Senior Surgeon* to the *Hospital* at *Bristol*, having been Witness of my *Success* in extirpating a *Cancer* from the Breast of a LADY, Sister to a noble EARL, was thence induced to bring his Niece to *London* for my Advice, she being afflicted with a *Cancer* on her Face, which had destroyed about half the End of her Nose, together with near the whole Nostril, and spreading upwards to the *Eye-lid*, to the great Deformity of a beautiful Face, the young Lady being about *twenty* Years of age. He first took the Opinions of two of the most eminent *Surgeons* at *St. James's*  
End



End of the Town, whose opinions were, that every Thing had been done already that they could advise, and recommended *palliating* the Disorder as far as possible; Mr. *Page* then consulted me, and thought proper to leave his Niece in Town under my Care; in a short Time afterwards the Lady's Face was entirely healed, and she returned to *Bristol* perhaps as happy as any Mortal could conceive herself; nor have I any Advice of her not continuing well. Here the Knife could not be applied, and if there was a Method of curing Cancers by *Cauterics*, he would undoubtedly have made use of them, and not have suffered the Disorder to have continued for near two Years; attended not only with the usual Danger, but also with the increase of such a frightful Disfiguration.

Here is another Case, the last I shall give, and in Mr. *Aylett's* own Words, as they stand in the Magazine.

To the AUTHOR of the LONDON  
MAGAZINE.

S I R,

ON perusing a Treatise on Cancers just published by Mr. *Guy*, I expected to have seen my Sister's Case inserted among others in his Book, but observing the Number of Cases limited, may suppose that to be the Reason of its being omitted. However, as I

D

esteem

esteem her Cure to be a very extraordinary and notable one, I desire the Liberty of introducing it in your Magazine, in justice to Mr. *Guy*, and for the good of the Public.

About two Years before we consulted Mr. *Guy*, my Sister, Mrs. *Melliora Aylett*, was troubled with a Pain in her Breast, which was discovered to proceed from a swelled Gland just under the Nipple, for which bleeding, and laxative Medicines were administered very frequently, and likewise an Issue made in the Arm. The Breast, with the Nipple, afterwards contracted, and drawn in, more and more, until the Swelling gradually became of the Size of a large Hen's Egg, discoloured, perfectly cancerous, and scarcely moveable from the Ribs. I consulted another Surgeon on the Occasion, as we had the more Reason to fear bad Consequences from the unhappy Fate of her Mother, who died of the same Disorder, and seeing the like Misfortune coming on my Sister apace, I was desirous of her coming to *London* to be under Mr. *Guy's* Directions: He very kindly undertook her Cure, though discouraged by some Appearance of its having before been in the Family; yet in Consequence of his Skill in the Treatment of her Case, she received a perfect Cure in little more than two Months Time.

I cannot help adding, that I consider Mr. *Guy's* Medicine, and Method of treating Cancers



cers as a most valuable and interesting Improvement in Surgery, not only from the Success attending it, but as such Cures are to be effected without using the Knife, a Circumstance of great Comfort to the afflicted with those miserable Complaints, and deserving of every Encouragement that can be bestowed on it.

During the Time of her Cure she never had any Fever, nor underwent much Confinement.

GEO. AYLETT, sen.

Sept. 4, 1762. Surgeon, at Rumford, Essex.

N.B. *She continues perfectly well at this Time.*

This Case, Sir, I term a very bad one, and if Mr. *Aylett* had thought cutting out the Cancer, would either have proved more easy for her to bear, or likely to succeed better in the Event, I have no Reason to think, that he would have brought his Sister to me; since he neither wanted Judgment himself, nor the best Advice from others, that was to be had.

The above Cases are not inserted so much with a View of proving the Success of my Practice, for I think the former *Publications* of that Sort may suffice for the Conviction of any reasonable Person,\* who considers, that no Man can ever pretend to be infallible, especially in such uncertain Affairs as human Health and Life: as to demonstrate to every Reader, how far Envy and Malice will carry

D 2

Men

Vid. My Essay, and practical Observations, with 100 Cases, dedicated to the King, with his Leave.

Men (who are jealously inclined, and would live only for themselves,) in their Attempts upon their Neighbour's Reputation; wherein if the injured Person be really useful, the Public must be Sufferers as well as he, as being thereby deprived of his Assistance. My Reputation might probably have been made a Sacrifice to Mr. *Gataker's* evil Designs, had I not, for my Defence, the powerful Weapons of Truth and a good Character; for when a Man becomes in some Degree eminent in his Profession, such Advantages are apt to attract the Eyes of the Public, who at the same Time are generally too ready to receive disadvantageous Impressions, on the least Plausibilities. But under these Disadvantages, I flatter myself, that what I have asserted will be well received, seeing it is strengthened by the Assent, and Opinion of others, indisputably skilled, and judicious in the Merit of the Question, and who, notwithstanding the most inveterate Prejudices, that Art or Falshoods could throw in the Way, were not to be misled against their Reason and the Evidence of Facts. Such were undoubtedly their Motives for trusting their nearest Friends to my Care, and giving the Preference to my Method as the least hazardous Means of receiving permanent Success.

I have still some Remarks to make upon the following Words of Mr. *Gataker*.

‘ *As*



‘ *As he must be equally sensible (you say) that there are many cancerous Cases, which from their Size, their Situation, and other Circumstances, cannot admit of having this Medicine applied to them.*’

This Allegation is certainly most true, for it cannot be applied to some of the internal Parts; nor do I chuse it, where a Cancer is of an enormous Size; in either of which Cases, however, the Cure by the Knife will be liable to the same Objections, as will hereafter be shewn in another Place.

But to proceed to the whole of the Objection: You add further, ‘ *As in other bad Cases he has declined the Application of the Medicine, where they have afterwards been relieved, or cured, by the common Operation, &c.*’

I cannot think it a *Reflection*, Sir, to decline the *Application*, where I think it cannot prove successful; for in this Point, if I were not to be guided by Experience, I should as often be shipwrecked as those who unskilfully and indiscriminately use the Knife. For in such Instances, where there is no Prospect of a Cure, I always should advise the most easy and *palliative* Means. And your farther Suggestion likewise, of *such Patients being afterwards relieved* by others, I shall readily admit likewise; for I would not, like you, pretend to have the whole Skill of the Profession centered

centered in myself. To *relieve them* in such Cases may be considered as lying within a very limited Compass, for all that then, in general, comes under the Surgeon's *Province* is, to keep them easy in the Dressings, and as clean as possible: The most important Part in such unhappy Situations, will become the Province of the Physician. His Skill will here be shewn in prescribing such internal Medicines, as may keep the Body in proper Temperature, and abate, as far as Art will go, the usual Sufferings incident to such Cases, by that Means protracting the Destruction, which might otherwise more immediately ensue. But if you mean, by the Words before recited, to insinuate, that I could not use the same common Means of Surgery for *relieving*, that others do, you then are most assuredly mistaken. Though, indeed, as my Practice for several Years past, has been too extensive to admit, *in general*, of an Attendance on *incurable* Cases, which would interrupt or prevent my assisting others in more hopeful Situations, my Reputation has sometimes suffered, in such Instances, by Men of your Class of thinking, who have been willing to mistake the Reason of my Non-attendance: For, wherever I am concerned, nothing less than an *infallible Cure* is expected, although it should have happened, that my Attendance was only aimed to *relieve*. Of such Circumstances Advantage has been taken



taken to my Hurt, and therefore this Treatment will make me more cautious for the future, of putting it into the Power of my Enemies to misrepresent me.

You say, that *bad Cases have been cured by the common Operation*, i. e. cutting, *where I had refused applying my Medicine*; I have already confessed, that there are Cases, where I do think it not prudent to apply my Medicine; but notwithstanding, I believe you would be able to collect but very few, very few indeed, where I have declined applying my Medicine, and Amputation had afterwards proved successful; not but that there may be some Instances found, yet too insufficient for you to boast of, I have sometimes been consulted in Cases, where the Knife could only take Place, and there has been some Probability of Success from it, and in every one of those Cases I have never failed recommending some one, or other of the Profession, whose Skill and Dexterity was well known, (for as I have before observed, I had rather be excused the Performance where I can) and appeal to those celebrated Surgeons Mr. *Sharpe*, sen. Mr. *Minors*, Mr. *Martin*, and others, for the Truth of this Assertion. You yourself know an Affair of this Kind in the Family of a noble *Lord* where you had had the Direction, though I was afterwards consulted: the whole Breast was nearly *scirrhus* and very large, and yet  
you

you had never mentioned any thing of the Operation yourself; perhaps she might be below your Notice, being only a poor Servant; but being determined to do every thing in my Power to save her, though her Case was then become very desperate, I requested one of the aforementioned Gentlemen to operate, while I assisted him, and afterwards, by our cordial Concurrence together, she happily received a Cure. You may perceive by this, Sir, I am not that Enemy to *heighten the Grievances of the Knife*, when no other easier Method can take Place, or the least Hope presents itself of its proving salutary; but on every Occasion like this, it is giving the unhappy Sufferer, but a mere, and desperate Chance for a Cure. For it too often happens, under such Situations, that the whole Mass of Juices have participated of the cancerous *Virus*, which will not only then prevent the wound made by the Incision from cicatrizing, but also be the Cause of its expanding itself again more largely, and producing direful Events to the Patients. That there are some Instances where such Misfortunes have not ensued, I readily agree, and where I have *declined the Application of my Medicine*, but I rather conceive this to be a Compliment, than a Censure either upon my Skill or Integrity, for being cautious in the Application of it, under improper Circumstances.

You



You, again, in the next Passage, Sir, discover the various Passions of Envy, Hatred, Malice, and all Uncharitableness, by your following Words:

“ *The frequent Instances which occur where*  
 “ *it has been used (my Medicine) and with*  
 “ *an apparent Success for a Time; but where*  
 “ *in reality the Patient have suffered, under*  
 “ *the most severe Return of the Disease.*

If such Instances, Sir, had befallen my Practice, more than that from the Knife, they might have created an Objection to it. But as the Balance stands so eminently great in my Favour, (and which alone is the Object of your Envy) I cannot think that Suggestion favours at all your Side of the Argument: For I have in my Writings, before taken Notice, that the greatest Security against the Return of the Disease, is that of taking Care in due Time, and I happen to be authorised in my Opinion, by a learned and ingenious Surgeon\*, who has lately published a very interesting Dissertation, on the *Inutility of amputating Limbs, &c.* Speaking of the *Cancer*, he goes so far as to say, *That it should be extirpated before it takes Root, or not at all.* Now seeing, that it very seldom happens, that the Patients who apply to me with Cancers, come under my Hands, until they have tried the Skill of  
 E others

\* Mr. Balguer, Surgeon-General to the Armies of the King of Prussia.

others first, or have permitted the Disease to become malignant, as malignant perhaps as if it were hereditary; it is by no Means giving it a fair Chance of Cure; from thence indeed, it may with Reason be expected that sometimes such inveterate Disorders may return again: I do not deny, but that I have experienced it, but they have often been cured again, though when such Returns have arose, from a Contamination of the Juices, or occult *Scirrhi*, in the remote or internal Parts, then, in such Cases, I fear, all the Art of Man will prove in Vain. But a *Cancer* is not the only Disease, that is subject to such Returns, *Fistulas*, the *Stone*, the *Evil*, and many other Disorders, shew the Inefficacy of the Knife, as well as Cancers, where they are discovered to be constitutional. But to what Lengths will not a malevolent Disposition hurry a Man! Even in an Instance of this Kind\*, where you were consulted, you frankly declared before the Lady, who was my Patient, and myself, that the Method I had made Use

\* This Lady about a Year after the Lump had been extirpated, had a soft spongy rising of Flesh, where the Lump was before, which, though it since has proved troublesome, to suppress, has neither injured her Health, nor given her so much Pain as to confine her from going out constantly: And it is farther to be observed, that some other Complaints, which she had been long subject to, had, since this happened, left her, which there are great Reason to think, fell upon the Breast, and created the latter Disorder; beside this, the Cancer had been before in the Family.



Use of for extirpating the *Scirrhus* from her Breast, was not to be charged, with what happened afterwards, and observed that the same Consequence would equally have ensued, had the Operation been performed by the Knife. But now you would insinuate a quite different Doctrine, to serve a Purpose of Malevolence.

No reasonable Person, I may venture to affirm, will ever look for infallible Success in any one; I am sure there never have been any such Pretensions on my Side, nor can the Nature of so terrible a Disease, as the *Cancer*, possibly admit of it, seeing there is frequently a Variety of other Distempers concomitant, that may frustrate the Success. And if it were the common Practice for *Physicians* and *Surgeons* to use the same *Inveteracy* against each other, as you have shewn to me, on Account of unavoidable Accidents; I say, if upon such Occasions they were to be continually charged with the Want of Skill or Integrity, it would destroy Reputations so fast, that the Patients must be left without Hope, and the Practitioners without Practice.

But after all, Sir, do you think it will be any Advantage to your Cause, to give the Public an Account of every Instance, you can possibly collect of my ill Success? If you do, suffer me on the other Hand, so far as to join Issue with you in such an Undertaking, as in

Return, to give them a Catalogue of the Names, Places of Abode, and Circumstances of those numerous Patients, that have been cured, and remain cured, which I imagine will sink you into that Contempt in the Eye of Mankind, which Men of such invidious and malignant Turns of Mind can ill support, and most richly deserve.

This Disposition of yours, Sir, makes me watchful of every Artifice ; and therefore I must examine the following Insinuation, which sufficiently demonstrates your Propensity to deceive.

You inform the Public, That *the Method of Extirpation (of Cancers) by " The Common Way, or by Incision, is practicable upon every Occasion, that is within the Reach of any external Means.*

Pray, Sir, what do you mean by the COMMON WAY? Because you say,—OR BY INCISION, which makes them two distinct Practices. The Common Way, is the Way by Cutting, which you endeavour to persuade the World, is more easy than my Method. If you had known any other Way to extirpate a Cancer without cutting, I should scarcely have fallen under the Violence of your Envy, and Displeasure: For I was the first Person that ever extirpated a *Scirrhus* from the Breast, without Cutting; and I have never yet let you, or any other into that Secret. But if by the Common Way, you mean the Method of the  
An-



Antients, which was by the Ligature and Actual Cauterie, (the hot Iron) that is not now quite so common: because the excessive Cruelty and ill Success attending such an Operation, occasioned the Moderns to explode it. You seem by this disingenuous Contrivance, to be afraid that your favourite Method of extirpating by the Knife will not pass so current with discerning People, as mine may without the Knife; therefore like an adept in Sophistry, you would impose upon them and induce them to think, that there is yet remaining another *Common Way*, or MEDIUM, of extirpating, should they refuse Admittance to the Knife. Indeed Attempts of that Sort, from the mistaken Notion, that I admit of the Use of Caustics, have been made by many, since my Success has become an Object of Attention, owing perhaps to such as yourself, who have given out that I do it by Caustics, which has involved them in such Errors, as instead of establishing a Practice of this Sort, has totally put an End to it, as a Thing attended with the most fatal ill Success. But as a little Specimen of their Undertakings, observe the Events only of the three following Cases, out of a great Number of others that have come before my Inspection.

Captain ——— having a Cancer in the Lip, in Circumference about the Size of a Silver Penny, was advised by his Surgeon to let him attempt the Extirpation of it by Caustics.

tics. The unfortunate Gentleman complied, and its Effects were, that the Sore in about six Weeks Time, spread to that Degree, that the whole Lip was very near destroyed, together with great Part of his Chin; Part of the Jaw-Bone was bare, and the Joint so fixed, that he could not open his Teeth; all the neighbouring Glands were tumified to a very great Degree, and the Smell was so offensive, nothing could exceed it. In this state he applied to me, being but a few Months ago, it being then out of my Power to relieve him. I was informed he died soon after. This Case could not possibly have raged and spread to the above shocking State in so short a Time, but from the injudicious and dangerous Use of the Caustic.

Nearly about the same Time, a Gentleman's Servant, afflicted with a Cancer on his Lip, desired my Advice. The whole Lip, except a very small Piece, was eaten away, his Cheek tumified and indurated up to the Eye-lid, Part of the *Maxilla* bare, the adjacent Glands swelled, the *Carotides* grown to the Size of a Man's Fist. This unhappy Object informed me, that when he went to the H——l the whole of the Cancer did not then exceed the Size of a Sixpence; nor was there any Swelling of the above Parts; that he was dressed every Day with Caustic Applications, which always produced the most severe Pains, and destroyed the Parts by Piece-meal, until he could



could no longer endure it; at which Time he was discharged; what afterwards became of him, I have not heard.

Mrs. ——— sent for me being in the following Condition: Her Breast entirely gone to the adjacent *Muscle*, and circumscribed by a large *curvated callous FUNGUS*. She was emaciated almost to a *Skeleton*, and a continual Fever upon her, with Loss of Appetite, &c. &c. She informed me, that she had had a *Scirrhus* in the Breast, which was about the Size of a Duck's Egg, at the Time she applied to her Surgeon. He advised her to let him cut it out, but she could not be brought to submit to it, and intimated that she proposed taking my Advice. She was then told, that I used Caustics, and if she pleased, he could take it out with *Caustics* \*, as well as Mr. *Guy*; she readily then submitted to have a Caustic applied; and these were continued until she became in the above calamitous Condition, when her Surgeon desired that she would send for me. I saw her only that very Time; but heard that she died within a Fortnight afterwards. These were the Consequences of Experiments, from *Caustics*, and shew the Evils attending the same.

Such Insinuations, Sir, against my Practice, are likely to do more Mischief to *Mankind*, than  
all

\* This shews the Vulgar Apprehension, that Mr. *Guy* made use of *Caustics*.

all your other Suggestions or Malice put together ; for, except you could steer them right in your *Common Way*, as you term it, which *Common Way* you have here seen exploded as *chimerical* and not existing, it ought to be a Check against your misleading them for the future ; most especially in a Distemper, where one false Step ruins all, irretrievably. Whenever any Thing new presents itself in medical Affairs, every one is attempting to follow it ; and, if in the Pursuit of the Discovery, they should chance to take a wrong Step many must suffer from the rash Experiments, until such Time as repeated Misfortunes put a Check to the Whole. And then very often begins a Clamour against the true Method, for some Men cannot bear to see another excel them. This has been exactly my Case, and most probably will be continued on to others, to the great Injury of the Art of Healing, and to the suppressing and discouraging of useful and important Improvements.

Another bold Doctrine on your Part presents itself, Sir, which for the Good of the Public, deserves Attention, you are pleased to assert that, “ *Neither the Size of the Swelling, nor its Situation are in general sufficient Objections to the Operation,* (meaning Cutting) then saying it over with the Words ‘ *When other Symptoms allowed it, &c.* I will suppose, in Favour of your Argument, that there shall be  
no



no *Symptoms* to forbid it, either in Respect to the State of *Health* of the Patient, *Adhesion* of the Swelling, or the ill State of any *Glands* in the Neighbourhood of the Part, that shall appear to be infected ; yet I shall shew, that *in general* there are great, very great Objections in the Way, with Respect both to the *large Size* of cancerous Swellings, and their Situations, *e. g.* when the whole Breast is thus affected, it is consequently large, and though it should be otherwise, under the most favourable Circumstances ; if such be extirpated, both the *Healing* and the *Cure* will become exceedingly doubtful ; the former on Account of the great Loss of *Tegument*, which is unavoidable by the Operation ; and may alone prevent the Wound from *cicatrizing*, and leave behind an incurable *Ulcer*, which used to be so often the Case, after *Amputation* of Limbs ; for which Reason the double *Incision* was invented to preserve sufficient *Teguments*, which is a great Improvement, and answers well in that Point ; but this cannot take Place in a large cancerous Breast, where almost the whole of the Tegument must be taken away by the Operation : And even supposing the best, that the Sore should heal, we are now to consider the Compleating of the *Cure*. The *Cicatrix* is in common so tender and infirm at such Times, that the Sore seldom remains long closed ; I speak *in general*. Also when a Breast in this State, is cut off,

F it,

it, for the most Part, puts on the Appearance of Healing for a little Time, and then the Sore alters on a sudden, flies open, and grows malignant, nor can it be recovered, to the promising Aspect, which it just before had borne, and this is owing to a diseased State, which the Juices are *generally* in, when *Cancers* are grown to a very *large Size*; for though it may appear, at the Time of the Operation, that the whole of the cancerous Mass had been fairly extirpated, it often happens, that some Portions of the diseased Glands, or the Roots are left concealed behind, and in either of those Circumstances, it may interrupt the Cure. Men of Experience well know, that it is very rare, that a lasting Cure is performed in those Situations; and it is impossible to know, in what State the Juices are, until you have entered upon the Trial. Should a large Cancer be seated in the most *Muscular* Parts, and where no considerable *Artery* interferes, the above *Objections* still remain; and when seated among the lesser Muscles, it can scarcely be extirpated with Safety; because not only *Arteries* of Consequence must be divided, but also because the Bone must nearly, if not totally, be denuded, in order fairly to extirpate it, and then a Caries and other Mischiefs may ensue.

You cannot forget an Instance of this Sort in the Case of Lady S——, where I was called in order to a Consultation with you. The



The Cancer was not large, but lay very deep between the *Wrist* and the *Elbow*, near about the Midway. The *Cancer* had before been cut out, but that Operation did not succeed; on which Account, I suppose, you thought it expedient to cut the Arm off, above the Elbow, and therein you was certainly right, for had you done it near the Part affected, the *Roots* of the *Cancer* would have repullulated, and the Cure might have failed.

I must inform you farther, Sir, that Cancers in general, which are large, peculiarly bury themselves deep, and their Base is broad, which Things are both great Obstacles to a successful Issue. After all, though we will suppose them possible to be cured, under the favourable Circumstances first mentioned, such as the Patient's having otherwise a good Habit of Body, and so forth (Advantages, which by the Way, are seldom to be seen.) For at the Time when Cancers advance in their Size, they accumulate other bad Symptoms to them, and not one in twenty of those, which are in Breasts, cease from diseasing their neighbouring *Glands*, in the *Axilla*, or *adhering* before the Time, that they become large. Indeed there may be known of this Kind some Instances where Amputation hath succeeded; but they will bear no Proportion to those, that happen to the contrary. Cautious and humane Surgeons would rather let  
F 2 their

their Inducement for performing the Operation at such Time be the Patient's own Desire, than any Persuasions or Encouragements they could give, knowing the Event to be very uncertain: and where there is no *Alternative* but *Life* or *Death*, a bad Chance must be better than none. But I can by no Means pardon your Presumption, in asserting that neither *the Size* nor *Situation* are in general *sufficient Objections* to the Operation.

For, the celebrated *Van Swieten* very justly remarks, “ *When the Cancer is large, the Operation will be more hazardous and the wound greater, whence the Cure must consequently be rendered difficult: For frequently a great Quantity of Matter being daily discharged, the Patient's Body will be exhausted, and wasted with a true Marasmus, or else from the Matter being left too long upon the Surface of so large a Wound, and absorbed or sent into the Blood, very often a purulent Cacochymy will follow, to the Destruction of the Patient.*”

It was from these dangerous Consequences so commonly seen, that I have endeavoured to caution and forewarn Persons afflicted with Cancerous Complaints, that they would not suffer the Disease to spread, and contract bad Symptoms before they take Advice; and also to apprize them of the *Errors*, which they seem to have imbibed, of there being no  
Danger,



Danger, until a Lump becomes Painful, or discoloured. For Pain is by no Means a certain Companion to some of them, nor even until they arrive at Degrees that are desperate; and when they become discoloured they are seldom at a great Distance from Opening to an Ulceration; and because some have lain dormant, for a long Time, all are not to build their Hopes on the same good Fortune, for if they do, many will find themselves unhappily deceived. You have been endeavouring, Sir, either through Ignorance, or what is worse, want of Ingenuity to level Reflections against my benevolent Intention, and Desire, of saving unfortunate Women, who might unsuspectingly be in the Road to Ruin, by saying ‘ *that Fear might magnify Objects* into Importance, and ‘ *Ignorance and Artifice confirm the Delusion.*’ If it were not, that I scrupled to throw Reflections on some, who as I believed, only erred in Judgment, in refraining from giving timely Notice to their Patients: I should Expatiate largely on this Head, I mean Procrastination and Delay, of extirpating Tumours, that might have been cured; but, from thence, were advanced out of the Power of Art to relieve. I know indeed, that as in general Rules there are Exceptions, it might happen, that altho’ *nineteen* Instances confirmed my Sentiments, yet if the *twentieth* were on the other Side

Side, it might afford you Occasion to cavil: I shall, however, venture to contradict some Part of your following Declarations.

‘ *As to the Fullness and Hardness, which may remain in the Breast, or other glandular Parts of the Body, after an Inflammatory Swelling or Imposthumation happening there; and as to many other slight Obstructions in these Parts, which Fear may sometimes Magnify into Objects of Importance, and where Ignorance or Artifice may confirm the Delusion, These by all fair and skillful Practitioners, are put out of the Question, and treated in a Manner proper to disperse them, or suffered to remain in their Present easy State.*’

The former Part of these Allegations, appears something like shooting a Man from behind a Bush: it is true you have not said directly, that Mr. Guy hath through Ignorance, or Artifice, deluded such fearful Persons; but yet by the Connection, that it carries with the Rest of your Scurrility, many may deem it a Charge upon me, and it is for that Reason, that I take Notice of it. I therefore would ask you (at the same Time that I set you at Defiance) whether you can produce a single Instance in the World, where I have either *magnify’d, deluded*, or made an ill Use of the *Fears* of any Patient, in a Case of no Importance, or where there was no likelihood of imminent Danger. If you know of such an Instance, Sir, publish it; if you cannot, it will



will appear, that you have endeavoured artfully to Impose upon the Publick, in order to accomplish your dark Designs. Cowards always Fight behind a Breast-work. If you have any Meaning, Sir, explain it fairly, or I shall despise you. Would you only give us to understand, that *Hardnesses* in *Breasts* or in *other Glandular Parts, Inflammatory Swellings, Imposthumations, or slight Obstructions*, are often to be removed with discutient Applications by such *Fair and skilful Practitioners* as your Self? Had this been all you intended, you would then have had no Occasion to have poisoned your Remark by supposing, that I would *Delude* or *Deceive* any more than your Self. But when you talk of suffering *Hardnesses* to remain, in their present *Easy State*, because they resist Endeavours to soften and dissolve them: I must frankly tell you, that such ignorant Advice may, sooner or later, be followed by some dreadful Events. \* For Example, suppose a Patient

\* In Proof of this, look back to your own Book, upon the Case of *Easter Williams*, who after your fruitless Attempts upon the Tumour in the Breast, to keep it in the *Easy State* as you call it, was soon afterwards forced to have recourse to my Assistance; otherwise she must have been lost by Delays and Trifling.

I cannot omit mentioning another Instance, to shew the Skill and Ingenuity of Mr. *Gataker*, tho' I am loath to swell this Book beyond a Pamphlet. *Ann Bull*, a Servant to Mrs. B——, in *Piccadilly*, now about a Year and a Half ago, consulted Mr. *Gataker*, about a small Lump in her Breast,

Patient consults you with a Tumour no bigger than a Nut, and without any Pain at all at the Time ; ought not such Tumour to be regarded?

Breast, then no bigger than a Pea, who advised her to do nothing to it, under the Assurance, that it would be of no Consequence ; she however found it increase, and it was frequently attended with Pain, but was still persuaded to be of the same belief ; until she suffered it to Increase to the Size of a large Fig, and was of an oblong Figure, near toward the Armpitt ; and being attended with great Pain at Times, it inclined her again to shew it to Mr. Gataker, when he saw it in this State, he declared his great Surprise at what had happened, and proposed immediately to have it Cut out (pray who was guilty of *Ignorance* and *Delusion* here ?) she was much shocked at the Proposal, thinking how she had been amused, and absolutely refused submitting to it. She apply'd then to me, the Lump was extirpated by my Method, and she became perfectly well, which was not quite six Months ago. Now I will remark on the Behaviour of Mr. Gataker since this Affair. An Advertisement being inserted in the Public Papers, of my intent to answer his Book : he posts away to this Patient, was very inquisitive, and desired to see her Breast ; (this has been since this Book was in the Press) she shew'd it him ; he examined it, and told her *it was very well, and that he had nothing to say against it.* But had not she very great Pain in my Method ? had she not had a Fever ? did she not keep her Bed ? and what might she pay me ? To the first she answer'd, she had a good deal of Pain, and some Fever, but not so much as to confine her to her Bed, or prevent her coming to attend at my House for Directions, but did not chuse to tell him what she had paid me. But to satisfy him myself, as to this latter Question, she brought what little matter she could make up, to offer it me, but I refused taking any thing of her, considering she was only a poor Servant. Mr. Gataker then offered to give her any Advice, but she told him, if she  
had



ed? can you, as I have observed before, be assured that it will remain long in that easy limited State? certainly the Patient should be advised to be watchful against its Enlargement, and to come for Advice again, if such an Appearance happens; for otherwise it might turn out Cancerous, before any Thing dangerous is suspected; these Accidents are common; and though they do not happen to every Person that labours under this Disorder, yet Experience convinces us, that there are more People ruined by Ten to One, than otherwise would be, were proper Precaution used upon such seemingly trifling Beginnings.

The Generality of Patients, who come for Advice, declare, that their Cancer arose at first from a small Lump, which they were advised to do nothing to, under the Assurance, that it would be of no Consequence; but when they find on a sudden that it is of such high Consequence, they have Reason to exclaim against the Conduct of such Practitioners, thinking, as all People must, that it is better, in such Cases to prevent Evils, than to cure them.

But should you think an *Hardness* worthy the Application of suppurative or discutient Medi-

G

cines,

had any Occasion for it, she would consult with me, who had cured her. I think if there were no other Reflections; on Mr. Gataker's Conduct throughout, the above alone, displays a Meanness of Soul, which a Surgeon of Honor, would be ashamed of being guilty of, to one of his own Profession.

cines, and find, after such treatment, that the Diffolution nor Suppuration should not succeed; would you not think it necessary to pursue other Means, that the Patient might be relieved from the Apprehension of future Dangers? surely if you did not, and these Dangers should ensue, your Conduct would deserve the severest Censure; for Women, who are no Judges of such Events themselves, generally rely on the Skill and Integrity of those, whom they consult; and after being informed in a Case of that kind, that there is no Danger to be apprehended, they will not be alarmed, even tho' they observe, that the Disease manifestly gains Ground, if Pain does not happen to accompany it at the same Time.

And therefore, I think, that I have rendered a considerable Piece of Service to my Fellow Creatures, in establishing the above Principles, as a Rule to be consider'd by every one, that professes the Practice of *Physick* and *Surgery*. And though this may through Ignorance, or Want of Experience, be discouraged by some for a Time, I am still in no Doubt, but that it will meet with a general Assent hereafter, seeing I have never argued upon the Point, with the sensible Part of the Faculty, in vain: and you yourself have concurred with me in the same Sentiments, when I told you, that the fatal Events, and the Difficulty, so often attending the Cure of Cancers, were for the most Part

owing



owing to a Delay of proper Treatment at first. But Men who are regardless of Improvement, may from an affected Opposition, misinterpret these Maxims to serve their own Purpose, by sophisticating the Argument, raising imaginary Propositions, and denying what I never meant to persuade.

You have also given me, Sir, an Opportunity, by your premature Censure, to shew the Intentions that I had, of giving every Satisfaction possible to the Publick, relative to the Merits of my particular *Practice*. Your Words run thus, speaking of the Cases published in my Books, ‘*for even supposing these Cases, selected as the most Successful, to be fairly stated in regard to the Nature of the Complaiats at first, and to some other interesting Circumstances in the Management of them: yet the real Event of many of them afterwards has been so little made known, where Candour and Fidelity to the Publick justly demanded otherwise, &c.*’

How easy is it for a Man, desirous of injuring the Reputation of another, to suggest Things, which he cannot form into a direct Charge, or Accusation. You *suppose* I may possibly have *selected* the most *successful Cases*, and *fairly stated them at first*, and taken the Advantage of *interesting Circumstances*: I am glad you only *suppose* so, for I should have been sorry to have deserved the Censure of *doing* so; though if this had been the Case, I should only

have followed the Example of some others ; but it is evident that I did not do so, by the Omission of that *singular* and *extraordinary* Cure of Mr. *Aylett's* Sister (just before mentioned) and by the same Rule it is reasonable to suppose, that I had omitted others which would have done me equal Honor.

No Man of less ill Nature, than Mr. *Gataker*, would have offered such an Insinuation, nor treated a Brother *Surgeon* so grossly ; indeed whether you believe me or not (for it is quite immaterial) I neither had those Views, which you would please to *suppose*, nor any other Motive to my Choice, besides that of giving the greatest Variety of Cases, and the least alike that was possible, to the End that almost every *Species*, and different *Aspect* of *Cancers*, might be known ; and that those Readers, who might have a Case of their own, and want Information, might some where among them find a similar one, as I had distinguished them all by their proper *Characteristicks*, never before noticed by other Writers, in order to reduce the vague Descriptions, which are in General given, of *Cancers*, to a more intelligible and useful System, by shewing the Difference between *Cancers*, and other Disorders of the Breast, which are often mistaken for *Cancers*.

And as an Answer to the latter Part of your last Paragraph, wherein you say ‘ *the real Events of many* (of those Cases) *afterwards* ‘ *have*



*have been so little made known, where Candour  
 and Fidelity to the Public justly demanded  
 otherwise, &c.* I would give you to understand, that both you and the Public might have been satisfy'd in that Point, on Enquiry either of the Persons themselves, or their Friends; as for that Purpose, alone, their Names and Places of Abode were inserted, But beside this, to prove, that I had an Intention of Publishing an Account of the present State of those Cases, I will appeal to Doctor *Mounsey*, at Lord G——'s, whether or no, I did not shew him such an Account, which I had collected some Months before, and proposed Publishing it, with some other Observations, as soon as my Time would permit. And to shew that it is to my Disadvantage, not to do it, I can make it appear, that there hath not been, among the deceased of my Patients, so great a Loss, as in an equal Number of Persons, in supposed healthy States, set forth in Dr. *Brackenridge's* Calculations on Human Life; theretore considering that some of my Patients were under Variety of other Ailments, it will appear as the greatest Proof of my Success.

I have now, Sir, answered, in every Part, your malevolent Suggestions, and Falshoods, so far as is necessary, to any important Purpose: and at the same Time, have corrected some very material Errors, in your Judgment, as a Surgeon; I shall now  
 pro-

proceed, according to Promise, to a Relation of the Discourse, that passed between us, on the Subject of curing Cancers, at the *Smyrna* Coffee-House, in order to shew the Inconsistency of what you have now advanced, with what was your own Opinion, no longer ago than the sixth of last *January*; which I shall take from the Minutes, &c. now before me.

Accidentally meeting with Mr. *Gataker*, at the Hon. Mr. *Y——s*, after some general Discourse between us, respecting my Practice, a Meeting was proposed, to consider how it might be made agreeable to me, to disclose the secret Composition of the Medicine, and the Method of using it, in the Cure of Cancers; to the End, that the Public might receive the full Benefit of it. Mr. *Gataker* appointed the Meeting, for the *sixth* of *January* last, between the Hours of *One* and *Two*, at the *Smyrna* Coffee-House, *Pall-Mall*; which was only a few Days after the first Overture.

I came punctually to the Time, soon after, Mr. *Gataker*; we went into a little back Room together; you politely made Excuse for making me wait. Afterwards, you began with asking me, what Reward I should expect; and in what Manner, I proposed to Publish it: I reply'd, that I conceived, it was in your Power to represent it to HIS MAJESTY, if you thought proper, and that I should desire nothing *Unreasonable*: that I was sure it  
was



was an Affair of great Consequence ; and that if it were made known to the World, it would open a large Field to Surgery. For it was not only beneficial in *Cancers*, but in several other Disorders, which I had never, as yet, made known to the Publick, to court their Application ; by reason, that I had full Employ in *Cancerous* Cases.

You reply'd, that you thought it might be of great Service in *Cancers*, especially where the Knife could not be applied, or where Patients would not submit to the Knife ; and believed it would be serviceable in many other Cases in Surgery : I then said it would be of more Importance than you conceived ; for that, when known, every Surgeon would apply it early, before Cases had advanced too far ; and that no Woman would refuse admitting it, though they do the Knife ; and by that Means it would, after a little Time, in all Probability, be the saving of Thousands. You confessed, that this was a Matter of great Consideration, and deserved Notice ; but that you should not chuse to give your Self any Trouble about it. I own I was much surprized, as I apprehended that you had designed the Contrary, by the Meeting. I then told you, I did not solicit for any Reward, nor desire you to trouble your Self, if it was not to your own Liking ; that I was easy in my present Station, and contented with the Profits of my Practice ;

tice; but that, as I had a Family, and the Medicine had originally cost me a large Sum of Money, and had been greatly improved by me, I could not, therefore, afford to lay it open, without a Consideration. You then turned the Discourse, and began with asking me several sifting Questions, relating to its Operation and Effects: I perceiving that you had no good Design, returned indefinite, and vague Answers. You then pretended, you was not satisfy'd with the Success of it, as you had heard of some Instances, where it had failed: I readily admitted, that I did not pretend to Infallibility, but offered to produce you Fifty, or any other reasonable Number, of Persons whom I had cured; many of whom, had been under some of the most eminent Persons of the Faculty: but you declined entering into Proofs, saying, it was not satisfactory, as you had not seen them from the First. I then reply'd, I had just been to see a new Case, of one Mrs. *Bruce*, in *Swallow-Street*, and as yet had done nothing for her; that she had a *Scirrhus* in the Breast, and that if you pleased, I would endeavour to prevail on her to wait upon you, and shew you her Case, before I began: you gave me no Answer, but with a supercilious Air, told me, 'you believed, that you had discovered the Medicine;' I answered, if you had, you was very lucky; but that I was sure, no Knowledge in  
Surgery



Surgery would lead you to it; for if it would, it  
 could not so long have remained a Secret. You  
 said, ' you were going to publish a Book, and  
 ' that you should take some Notice of it, but  
 ' that you should treat me with *Candour*, and *like*  
 ' *a Gentleman*: I told you, that if you did not, I  
 ' had the same Opportunity of doing my Self Jus-  
 ' tice, &c. &c.' We then parted, and I left you  
 in the *Coffee-Room*. I immediately reflected  
 on your Behaviour, which appeared to have in  
 it no other View, than that of endeavouring to  
 sift something out of me, which might lead you  
 into a Discovery of my Practice; and that, in-  
 stead of desiring to do the Public Service, you  
 meant no more, than to become my Rival;  
 and as your intended Publication might possi-  
 bly be something against me, I determined,  
 immediately, to minute down the Particulars  
 of our Discourse, with a Pencil, on the back of  
 some Letters, as I rode in the Chariot, from  
 the Coffee-House, to my own House, while  
 it was fresh in my Memory; and as soon as  
 I arrived at Home, I directly copied it fairly;  
 thinking, I might possibly have Occasion to  
 make the very Use of it, which I have now  
 made.

The next Day, I determined to request  
 Mrs. *Bruce*, to call on you, at your House,  
 to shew you her Case, before I began her  
 Cure; she very kindly consented, and waited  
 on you; she informed you of her Business, and

H

that

that it was by my Desire she came. You reply'd, that you had no Inclination to see her *Breast*: she answered, she was very sorry for being so troublesome; and had not come, but to oblige Mr. *Guy*, and was going to return again; when you said, since she had taken the Trouble of coming, you would look at her *Breast*: she then let you examine it; you told her the Lump might be cut out, and *endeavoured much to persuade her, to let You cut it out, (This may serve to shew your dirty Disposition to supplant me)* your Persuasions, however, were in vain; for she told you, she could not bear to have it cut out, and was determined to be under my Care: she afterwards left you, and went Home, and soon informed me of your Behavior. I then proceeded to extirpate the *Scirrhus*; and during the Time of the Application, a female Friend of *Hers*, and *Yours*, asked her, to let you see her *Breast*; whether by your Commission, or not, I shall not pretend to say, though it will carry a strong Suspicion of it. However, she had Honor enough, absolutely to refuse it, without asking my Leave. She happily received a Cure, but had no Inclination afterwards to wait on you again at Home; but said, she should very likely see you, at the House of the abovementioned Friend, and that there you should be welcome to examine the *Breast*, if you pleased; as from the Intimacy between her Friend and you, it must have



have been impossible for you not to have been informed of the Cure. She afterwards met you, at that Friend's House, and paid her Compliments to you, but *you never chose to ask her any Questions about her Breast*, or the Event of my undertaking; for if you had, it might have been the Cause of convincing you disagreeably, that is, against your Inclinations, that it met with Success. Which Success, I suppose, is your Motive for abusing me, since you have always shewn an earnest Hankering, to become acquainted with my Manner of Practice; and finding your Self defeated therein, have not scrupled to misrepresent it, even to the exposing of your Skill as a *Surgeon*, as well as injuring the Truth.

But as upon a former Occasion, you have been worked into a Disposition, to retract your Errors, with Respect to the *Sovereign Virtues of the Nightshade*, \* which led so many into Mistakes, § the Effects of which may still be felt: So upon this Occasion, I think, it would well become you, frankly to acknowledge the Fallacies, and Mistakes, in which you have been detected, recollecting what you have observed, Page 40, of your Supplement upon

\* Vid. *Gataker's Supplement to the Observation on the internal Use of the Nightshade.*

§ Vid. Your Opponent's Account of the *English Nightshades*, and their Effects, &c. &c. I mean by *William Bromfield*, Surgeon to her *R. Highness the Princess of WALES*, &c. Page 67 to 70.

upon the perverse Opposition to good Medicines, and the Force of vulgar Prejudices, and how it has been owing to such a Cause *‘ That so excellent a Medicine as the Bark, has met with almost insuperable Difficulties, in being introduced into Practice, is still disliked by many; and its Virtues, at least till lately, very imperfectly known out of England — If we add to these Considerations, the Prejudice, Indolence, and Disingenuity, with which too many are apt to receive any Discovery of this Sort, it was not unreasonable &c. &c, for the alleviation at least, if not for the Cure of Cancers; and in a Disorder of this unhappy Nature, every possible Means of Relief demands the utmost Attention.’*

These Words, Sir, are rather a Reproach to you, in the Dispute between us, and ill agree with your present Conduct; therefore leaving you to reconcile them, as well as you can, I remain, till the next Opportunity,

Your very humble Servant,

MARK-LANE,  
Oct. 22, 1764.

RICHARD GUY.

F I N I S.